

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 8, 2002 LB 277, 1085

SENATOR BEUTLER: Withdraw that one and the next one, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Synowiecki...Senator Hartnett, AM3580. Senator Redfield, AM3599.

SENATOR REDFIELD: I would ask to substitute AM3629, if I could, please.

CLERK: The number again please, Senator? Which one did you want?

SENATOR REDFIELD: AM3629. (Legislative Journal pages 1529-1533.)

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Are there any objections? Seeing none, Senator Redfield, would you care to open on your amendment?

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Senator Schimek, members of the body. Last year we talked about my priority bill, which was LB 277, and it dealt with eliminating the marriage penalty in the state of Nebraska. I have distributed to you a comparison of those couples, the number of couples, that pay the marriage penalty in the state of Nebraska. It's in the center of the page that was passed out. This was put together by the congressional offices and, in fact, you find an interesting thing that in the state of Nebraska, while 174,593 couples pay the marriage penalty on their income taxes, that in fact they are distributed fairly equally across the three congressional districts. There is often a consideration that we have...the income tax is only levied in the urban areas and that, in fact, the rural areas escape, but that is not what these numbers tell us. They tell us that in fact the third district had the largest number of couples paying the marriage penalty. Now, 174,000 couples is not a lot of people. We've had a number of proposals before us and we've had a very impassioned speech talking about whether we should levy a tax, a higher tax, on a minority. We have 1.7 million people in the state of Nebraska, but 174,000 couples pay the marriage penalty. Why do they pay it? They pay it because there are two workers in their home and, therefore, I introduced this bill last year. It came out